NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

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N. E. FARMER.

TO HOP GROWERS.

As I have recently heard complaints from brewers and purchasers of hops, that there was not sufficient care taken in picking them, and that the consumers of the article suffered much loss from stems and leaves, and the grower has lost also from the same cause by the lower marked quality of his hops, I would respectfully suggest to growers, that great care should be taken to have their hops as free from stems and leaves as possible. Too early picking also is injurious to the strength and quality of hops. The following are communications which I have received on the subject from the principal brewers in Philadelphia and New York.

BENJ. FARNSWORTH, *Inspector.*

Philadelphia, Aug. 24th, 1842.

BENJ. FARNSWORTH, Esq.—Sir—The undersigned, brewers of the city of Philadelphia, having been informed of your appointment to the office of Inspector of Hops for the State of Massachusetts, feel encouraged to address you briefly on the subject. For some years past, the hops grown in the Eastern States have seriously declined in character. We believe this to be owing chiefly, if not solely, to gross carelessness, to say no worse, on the part of the grower, at the time of gathering, and not to any deterioration in the quality of the plant. Vicious habits of picking have been fostered by a careless system of inspection. Hops are annually shipped from Boston and other Eastern ports, as first sort, and purchased by the consumer at the highest prices, which upon examination are found to contain such large quantities of leaves and stems as to render them unfit for the brewers' use in manufacturing the finer qualities of liquor. In this way the purchaser not only suffers a positive loss in weight, but the effect of those extraneous substances, when applied to manufacturing purposes, is detrimental in the highest degree, and not unfrequently the cause of irretrievable injury. It is to these abuses we would invite your attention, for we feel assured that any reform must originate in a nice distinction of quality on the part of the Inspector. As long as the producer is offered a premium for mismanagement and neglect, by having his inferior article passed current as prime, it seems evident that remonstrance alone will not have much effect on his conduct. The ultimate policy of this system may well be questioned, however advantageous it may seem at first sight; indeed its effects are already visible in the increasing demand for hops raised in western New York, and the advance in price which they generally command. This preference, we think, is in some measure attributable to the care bestowed in the picking, and the superior condition in which they are brought to market. The benefit resulting from a more rigid system of inspection, would not be confined exclusively to one branch of trade: a gradual approximation in quality to the English standard might reasonably be expected, as the natural tendency of judicious reform; and in time of foreign demand, the interests of the merchant and exporter would evidently be promoted and permanent advantages finally accrue to the grower. Believing a simple statement of facts and their more obvious results to be the most judicious appeal to a candid and honorable mind, we respectfully commend our cause and its merits to your favorable construction.

Yours, respectfully,

M. L. DAWSON & CO.,
FRANCIS & WM. S. PEROT,
FREDERICK, GAUL & SONS,
WM. C. RUDMAN,
ABBOTT & NEWLIN,
GRAY, WHITE & CO.,
SMITH & SECKEL,
R. R. TAYLOR.

New York, Sept. 7, 1842.

BENJ. FARNSWORTH, Esq.—Sir—It having come to the knowledge of the undersigned that you had lately received the appointment for the Inspection of Hops for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, they would respectfully suggest to you whether, on entering upon the duties of that office, the character of Boston inspection cannot be re-established. The general complaint made within a few years past, of the inspection of Eastern hops, you must be aware has not been made without foundation.

The advantage to be derived from a fair and uniform inspection, is not only advantageous to the consumer, but it will also be readily seen that it is equally so to the grower, and must be to the mutual advantage of each, as a good and uniform inspection, when known in a foreign market, will be inquired for, when those that cannot be depended on would be entirely neglected. It should also be borne in mind, that the hops of the State of New York are now as well cured, and better picked, than those of New England, and that while the general character of the former has been improving, that of the latter has been deteriorating.

URI BURT,
SADGEBURY & SHERWOOD,
M. P. READ & BROTHERS,
M. VASSAR & CO.,
ALEX. McLACHLAN,
C. & S. MILBANK,
BILSBORROW & BULLOCK,
DAVID JONES,
WM. B. & A. MILES,
ALEX. M. GREGORY,
J. BURIDGE & CO.,
JOHN TAYLOR,
EGLESTON, PUTNAM & CO.,
NASH BEADLESTON & CO.,
GEORGE ROBINSON.

☞We are indebted to Mr Blanchard for a copy of the above articles, and would thank him for some statistics showing the amount of hops inspected in Massachusetts. We know generally that the business is so extensive that hops are an important item of agricultural produce in the Commonwealth; but of the particulars we are not informed. If it be true, as the above memorials imply, that our hops are decreasing in price, because of careless picking, growers should be informed of the fact, and all possible efforts should be made to render our hops as good as those from any other section of the country.—ED. N. E. F.

From the Albany Cultivator.

SETTING GATE POSTS.

Messrs. Editors—As I was about setting a gate post, the Cultivator came from the office; I sat down to peruse it, and cast my eye on an article giving directions how to set posts. The writer says: Dig your hole something larger than your post; then take water lime and sand, make it into mortar, pick up small stones throw them into it, set down your post, take a shovel and throw in your mortar, fill up the hole and let it stand until it gets hard before using. It struck me that it was an improvement; but after a little reflection, I thought I could improve upon it. I therefore set down my post, which was 8 by 10 inches, gathered small stones, filled up the hole with them, made my mortar so that it would pour, filled the hole a little rounding with it, so that no water could stand near the post, smoothed it off, let it stand two or three days, and hung my gate, where it has been two years, as firm as the tree before it was cut down, in a solid body of cemented stone, two feet square. As water lime is an article that but few people keep by them, I would say that I have no doubt but mortar made of common lime and sand would be a great improvement in preserving the post as well as keeping it firm. P. OTIS.

Galway, Saratoga Co., N. Y.

COOKING CORN AND CORN MEAL.

We think there can be no safer position assumed in the economy of feeding stock, than that *quantity* as well as *nutriment* is essential to their preservation in a healthful condition. If this point be conceded, then it follows as a corollary, that both corn and corn meal should be cooked before being fed. This will appear the more manifest when we state these facts: *Corn*, by being boiled or steamed, will increase in bulk two hundred per cent.; while *corn meal*, by the process of boiling, is increased three hundred and fifty per cent. To make ourselves more distinctly understood, we will remark, that a bushel of corn after being boiled will measure three bushels; and that to cook a bushel of meal, it requires five bushels of water to make it into the consistence of *mush*, so that every pound of meal in its raw state, will give 4 1-2 pounds of cooked food, with a volume correspondingly increased. These facts should, we think, go far to point out to the observing farmer the advantages to be gained by cooking whatever meal he may feed to his cows or hogs.—*Amer. Far.*

The felicity of human life depends on the regular prosecution of some laudable object, that keeps awake all our powers.

SORREL APPARENTLY NOURISHED BY MARL.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Register:

My attention has lately been called to a fact, which has surprised me very much, so much indeed as to make me very desirous to hear your opinion on the subject, as well as that of some of your correspondents who have most experience in the use of marl. The fact is this: my nephew, Mr R. M. T. Hunter, has been marling his land for two years past, to a considerable extent, and nearly all the piles deposited during the winter and spring months, were covered by midsummer with a luxuriant growth of sorrel! This has happened both years on each of his two farms, although the field on one of them, upon which the marl was deposited this year, has no sorrel on the greater part of it, except upon the marl heaps.

The universal opinion, I believe, is that marl will kill sorrel; but here is a fact which has been witnessed by many, that appears directly and undeniably to disprove it. Can it be possible that the same substance can produce and nourish a particular species of plant, the seeds of which must either have been blown upon the mass by the winds or deposited therein from time immemorial; and yet destroy these plants when plowed into the earth wherein they previously grew? To me the matter seems altogether incomprehensible. The fact admits of neither doubt nor contradiction; it is absolutely certain; for there were the piles of marl, hundreds of them to be seen for weeks together, covered with luxuriant sorrel, which continued to spread and flourish until the marl was spread and plowed in. Do let us hear what you think of this matter; and continue to believe me

Yours, very sincerely,

JAMES M. GARNETT.

[As we had given an answer to a similar inquiry formerly, which has been forgotten by our correspondent, and never seen by much the greater number of our present readers, we beg leave to republish it, together with the inquiry and statement of facts which drew it forth.—*Ed. Far. Reg.*]

Williamsburg, Jan. 15, 1833.

* * * On a recent visit to my farm, one fact struck me with considerable surprise, as it seemed to be inconsistent with one of your leading principles respecting calcareous manures. The marl which I am now using is very strong, supposed to contain 75-100 of lime, and is in heaps of from four to five bushels. On these heaps I observed sorrel was growing in bunches of considerable size. Will you have the goodness to account for this fact? It seems to me that I can never get clear of sorrel by the use of marl, *since it grows on a marl bed.* Your experience, however, may explain this effect, and assist my future use of the manure. * * *

Answer by the Editor of the Register.

* * * My own experience, more than ten years ago, furnished me with several opportunities of observing facts similar to those you describe—and like yourself, I was alarmed at first, at what seemed to be a positive contradiction of my previous opinion, that calcareous manures in sufficient quantity, rendered a soil incapable of supporting the growth of sorrel. But further observation served to remove these fears, and even afforded additional proof of the general position before assumed. Where I found sorrel growing on heaps of marl, it was under these circumstances: the loads had been dropped on *acid soil* (subject to produce sorrel) and had remained without being spread, perhaps twelve months. By carefully removing the marl from the plants, I found that they had sprung, not from the marl, but from the acid soil below; and that the communication between the soil and the air, where the leaves opened, was through a single tap-root, which merely passed through the heap of marl, without drawing any sustenance from it. The plants were usually where the marl was thin, near the edges of the heaps—but one of the roots which I examined was of the remarkable length of nine inches: it had thrown out a few horizontal fibres of about an inch in length, as if in search of nourishment, but which were then (some time in June) quite dead. The few plants then observed, though full of the coverings for seeds, yet were quite destitute of the seeds which should have been within: but this remarkable abortion, though often to be seen under like circumstances, is not general.

Calcareous earth alone is insoluble in water, and can in no way affect growing plants except when mixed with and acted on by other substances in soils. A load of marl dropped on the surface of the land and left undisturbed, can have no more effect than so much silicious sand or any other substance of like insolubility, weight and texture, though perfectly worthless and inactive as manure. Marl, if thinly spread though left on the surface, in the course of time would have all its finer parts carried down into the soil by rains; and thus ultimately would act as a manure. But even this slow effect would be prevented by the thickness of a cartload of marl, which would shelter the covered soil from rain, except what it could imbibe slowly by absorption. By thus calling to your mind the existing circumstances, and the insoluble quality of calcareous earth, you will see that in no way could your marl exert its chemical power of neutralizing the acid quality of the soil; by which means only it destroys the growth of sorrel. The germination of the seeds at such depths, and the rising of the plant through such a layer of dead earth, (as marl is in such cases,) proves the remarkable hardiness of sorrel; but its growth in such situations furnishes no proof whatever that marl when acting as a manure is not destructive of sorrel. To produce this effect, it only requires that a sufficient quantity shall be applied, and equally and thoroughly mixed with the soil by tillage. If plants of sorrel are found on a field that has been sufficiently marled, and the soil well stirred by cultivation, it only proves that from careless spreading, those spots were left without their share of the dressing. But should my reasoning be not entirely satisfactory, you may rely on the testimony of my experience, which pronounces that sorrel will never be found plenty enough to be injurious after even a moderate marling, and that after a proper application, the soil is found not only cleared of sorrel, but incapable of producing it.

☞This article reminds us of a fact we noticed on our own field in June. Last year, in the month of August, we brought to the field an hundred bushels of barilla ashes and deposited them in one heap near the border of a small piece of reclaimed meadow land, upon which they were to be spread. In September they were used as intended—but the bottom of the heap was not very thoroughly cleaned up. In June of this year we noticed much sorrel and no other plant growing where the heap had been formed. This led us to look for sorrel where the barilla had 'been spread, but we there found little if any. We knew not how to account for the fact. Mr Ruffin's account above of the action of marl, lets us suppose that the barilla heap killed the other plants, but not the sorrel. We have no necessity then of supposing that the barilla produced sorrel. Indeed our own observation of facts had deterred us from such an inference; for we had two other heaps of barilla of the same size and form, on other parts of the farm, where there was no sorrel on the surrounding land. One of these heaps was spread out in September—the other not until May. We have seen no sorrel on these spots. But where the sorrel did appear, it was seen also, though not in very great quantity among the surrounding clover.—ED. N. E. F.

LOAM FOR TOP-DRESSING.

Now is the time to prepare the rich loam from the road-side, and excellent manure from holes where the wash accumulates from surrounding hills and uplands, as a top-dressing for swales and low English mowing ground.

One of the best practical farmers we have ever known, for a series of years, top-dressed much of his English mowing ground with nothing but common loam, and he assured us, that years of experience had proved to his entire satisfaction that the practice was very profitable.

Where this loam is thrown out by the plow on to the adjoining mowing land, who has not seen its good effects on the grasses?—*Bost. Cult.*

Wild Cherry Leaves.—A correspondent of the Hartford Courant states that two cows died recently in Kensington, Conn., in consequence of eating wild cherry leaves in a wilted state. The bush had been cut about two hours, and one of the cows died in about forty minutes after eating, and the other in a little over an hour. The writer says that the leaves in a wilted state are a most deadly poison; and cattle eat them with avidity, being of a sweetish taste.

Burns.—A subscriber in Lowell has given us the following recipe for the cure of burns:

"Take any quantity of clover blossoms and boil them thoroughly in enough of water to cover them well; then strain off the water, and boil it down to a thick syrup of the consistence of molasses; then bottle the syrup up for use, and it will keep for years."

Our informant, who has tried the remedy repeatedly, says that if applied to scalds or burns, it will extract the fire almost instantly.—*Bost. Merc. Jour.*

Manual Labor.—The great Locke had the right notion of the salutary influence of moderate labor upon the mind. Gardening, or husbandry in general, he says, and working in wood, as a carpenter, joiner, or turner, are fit and healthy recreations for a man of study or business. It is well understood by physiologists that to increase the vigor of the mind we should increase the vigor of the body; not by eating and drinking alone, but by healthful exercise.—*Selected.*

Rightly Served.—Three young men were recently convicted of stealing fruit from an orchard in Worcester, and fined $10 each.

ON HARVESTING CORN.

To the Editor of the Mass. Plowman:

Seeing a request in the last number of the Ploughman for those who were acquainted with the modern method of harvesting corn, to give the result of their experience showing the superiority (if any) over the old fashioned way of topping the stalks, I thought I would have the presumption to say a few words upon the subject. Having tried each way for fifteen years past, give me a decided preference for cutting up the corn, by the roots, so soon as the corn is well glazed, which is generally when the leaves and husks begin to turn.

Generally speaking, corn will do to cut up by the middle of September, sometimes before, at which time the fodder possesses most of its pleasant and nutricious qualities. I generally cut from six to eight hills to the bundle, taking two rows at a time, taking good care to lay the butt ends of the stalks even when I lay them down, thereby rendering them much more sun to withstand the winds. I lay two rows of bundles withtheir butts opposite, sometimes four rows. I then put five bundles in a stook by standing one perfectly erect, then putting the other four bracing or a little leaning at right angles against the middle one. They will be very safe when done in this way and not hurt or mould and will readily cure if the weather be good, if not they will also be "safe in a storm." I have had them withstand the severest gales done in this way. I consider the corn equally heavy when shelled, harvested in this way as when allowed to stand out *with the tops off*, till the under foliage and butts are *almost* and oftentimes *wholly* rendered useless as fodder. A man can secure an acre of corn in the stook in this way as soon as he can an acre of stalks, and if the fodder is properly taken care of the cattle will eat the greater part of the stalks or butts, especially if cut with a straw cutter. Corn cut up in this way can be got to the barn more readily and stowed away upon scaffolds, or put in stables with ease, and remain a long time without injury to the corn or fodder. I have taken some three or four acres in at a time to clean a field for plowing or putting in cattle. I, till within the two past years have resided upon Connecticut river, where great attention is paid to the raising of corn and the "modern method" is the prevailing one and much preferred by all that try it. Some have adopted the method of leaving one hill uncut and tying as many around as a man can gather in his arms at a time, and tying the top with suckers to the standing hill, taking care to keep a straight line for the stooks. But this method is by no means a good one to preserve the fodder, as it leaves it very much exposed. But when harvested by the above method it has a quicker chance to dry the ears, if the corn be late. I am always particular to turn the top of the stooks down to where I tie them, which renders them impervious to water and makes them stand firmer. I have frequently filled a shed 80 by 20 feet on the scaffold as close as it could be stowed or stood up—as also underneath on the ground floor, and not have it harm; I am, however no advocate for doing thus except when circumstances demand it.

If it be desirable to sow the land, the bundles can be drawn off with a sled and stood upon grass ground or otherwise. If stowage is an object, you can make the fodder take much less room by binding some half dozen bundles when you are husking into one. The time taken to unbind the corn and bind up the stalks is well paid for, by saving all the corn in the bundle and rendering the stalks quicker stowed away, and more easily and better got at in foddering time.

AN ANDOVER FARMER.

P. S. In short I consider the *new* method by far the most expeditious of any—as well as preferable in every particular.

Remarks.—There can be no doubt that the fodder from the corn cut up in the fore part of September and put in shooks, is worth a vast deal more than it is when allowed to stand out through a part of October. All the improvement that we then need is to cut up the fodder so short that the cattle can get it into their mouths.

This season is so wet and the corn is so backward, we expect to hear that much of it is nipped by September frosts.

We advise those who have not cut their stalks, and whose corn is not ripe to cut up the whole together and put it in shooks where frosts will not do it much injury.—*Ed. Plowman.*

From the Maine Farmer.

WHAT CROPS WILL DO WELL AFTER RUTA BAGA?

In the July No. of your paper, under the inquiry "Is Barley a suitable crop to follow potatoes?" The call was made for more facts in regard to the question of rotation. To one remark there made, I purpose to speak at the present sitting. "Indian corn does not do well after Ruta Baga." Allow me to introduce the subject by asking *what crop does do well after Ruta Baga?*

I have given some attention to rotation and noted effects till I have resolved that Ruta Baga are from this time forward '*rotated*,' out of my catalogue.

The latest facts I have to record, and such as I shall *shew up* on this occasion are simply as follows, and simply told. In June, 1840, I plowed half an acre of exhausted mowing land, and in the fall gave it a dressing of about 40 loads of yard manure, and plowed it in. It is a dry, slaty soil, inclining to the South. In the spring of '41 my intention was to make the most of it with a crop of roots. We commenced operations at the south end of the piece, and planted ten or more rows of early potatoes.—Next in order we planted 1-8 of an acre of Sugar Beets; then a piece of carrots, then 1-8 of an acre of Ruta Bagas; and finished the piece with Christie potatoes. The whole received ample justice from the hoe, with some plaster and ashes.

The drought affected the crop severely. The potatoes gave us a yield at the rate of more than 500 bushels per acre; the Ruta Bagas not more than half of the rate of the potatoes, the Beets not one fourth of that rate, and the carrot seed nearly all failing, its part in the matter stood nearly at 0. The present season I sowed the piece with Flax. The ground was well prepared for the seed, and after sowing was rolled smooth. I find my interest in sowing flax every year, as much as in raising wheat, and in this instance I expected a fine crop. But, Mr Editor, I am disappointed. I have been *cheated.* I accuse no man of being an accessory to the mischief; but these rascally roots that you have been "cracking up" for so many years, have treated me, in this case, as they ever have me and my neighbors. Soon after the flax came up, it told a tale that should forever put to silence the advocates of ruta bagas. That I might not be obliged to testify alone in this case, I called some of my neighbors to view it at different times. All were surprised at such results. The potato ground at each extreme, and where the carrots were sown in the middle of the piece, alike threw up a luxuriant crop, while the intermediate spaces, occupied before with the beets and ruta bagas appear uniformly sickly and pale, the flax at any time no more than one half the size of the other, till the larger had attained the height of four feet. I have hitherto been an advocate for beets, considering them worth something after they were grown; but in this case they cost more than twenty times as much as they were worth.

This is a case in evidence against ruta bagas plain enough in point, but not more so than others that might be cited in this vicinity. There may be cases in which a farmer may find his interest in raising ruta baga. But in my humble opinion it is only with such locations as unavoidably receive the wash from buildings, and where the most exhausting crop may be taken with impunity.

Yours, truly,

C. CHAMBERLAIN.

Stoop a little.—The following story related by Dr. Franklin in a letter to Dr. Mather, has been often told, and is well worth telling again:

"The last time I saw your father (says Dr. Franklin,) was in 1724. In taking my leave, he showed me a shorter way out of the house, through a narrow passage, which was crossed by a beam over head. We were still talking as I withdrew, he accompanying me behind, and I turning towards him, he said hastily, '*Stoop! stoop!*' I did not understand him till I felt my head hit against the beam. He was a man who never missed an occasion of giving instruction, and upon this he said to me, 'You are young, and have the world before you: *stoop a little* as you go through it, and you will avoid many hard thumps.' This advice, thus beat into my head, has frequently been of use to me; and I often think of it when I see pride mortified and misfortunes brought upon people by carrying their heads too high."

Caution against Poisons.—Housekeepers should be cautious about using glazed earthen vessels for holding confections, either preserved in acids or liable to undergo acetious fermentation. The lead used in the process of glazing is deadly poison. It is disengaged by the action of the acids, and diffuses itself through the entire contents of the vessel from which it is corroded. Many persons, not aware of this fact, preserve pickles and sweetmeats in glazed earthen jars, and from the deleterious change which the confections undergo in consequence, lose their health, if not their lives, without ever suspecting the cause. Stone or glass jars should be used.—*Selected.*

Slander.—"My dear friend, that woman has been talking about you so again! She has been telling the awfulest lies you ever heard: why she railed away at you for a whole hour!"

"And you heard it all, did you?"

"Yes."

"Well, after this just bear in mind that it takes two to make a slander; one to tell it and one to listen to it."—*Selected.*

By a recent act of Congress, the value of the pound sterling is fixed in our currency at four dollars and eightyfour cents.

From Dr. Dana's Muck Manual.

ASHES AS MANURE.

The value of ashes in agriculture, depends upon its being a combination of salts, derived from plants, all of which have a powerful and decidedly beneficial effect. The question is often asked, what is the relative value of spent or leached and unleached ashes? It may be answered by reference to the analysis of ashes.

Burning reduces these constituents to two classes —ashes and volatile salts. The last are found in soot. The ashes are formed of salts and silicates. These vary in quantity and quality, not only in different plants, but, as is well known, in different parts of the same plant. Let us take oak, beech, basswood, birch, as the types of the composition of hard wood ashes, yellow pine *(pinus abies,)* as the type of soft wood ashes; and wheat straw as the type of the ashes of the grasses.

The average quantity of ashes from 100 parts of dry oak, beech, birch, &c., is 2.87. Ashes are divided by the simple process of leaching, into two parts, soluble and insoluble in water. 100 parts of hard wood ashes thus afford—soluble, 13.57; insoluble, 86.43.

100 parts of the soluble contain:

Carbonic acid,	22.70
Sulphuric acid,	6.43
Muriatic acid,	1.82
Silex,	.95
Potash and soda,	67.96
	99.86

100 parts of the insoluble contain:

Carbonic acid,	35.80
Phosphoric acid,	3.40
Silex,	4.25
Oxide of iron,	.52
Oxide of manganese,	2.15
Magnesia,	3.55
Lime,	35.80

Pine, *(pinus abies)*—100 parts dry wood afford only .0083 of ashes; of which 100 parts afford soluble, 50; insoluble, 50.

100 parts of the soluble contain:

Carbonic acid,	13.50
Sulphuric acid,	6.90
Silex,	2.
Potash and soda,	69.70
Water,	7.90
	100.

100 parts of the insoluble contain:

Carbonic acid,	21.50
Phosphoric acid,	1.80
Silex,	13.
Magnesia,	8.70
Oxide of iron,	22.30
Oxide of manganese,	5.50
Lime,	27.20
	100.

Wheat straw—100 parts yield .044 of ashes; 100 parts of which afford, soluble, 19; insoluble, 81.

100 parts of the soluble contain:

Sulphuric acid,	0.2
Muriatic acid,	13.
Silex,	35.6
Potash and soda,	50.

100 parts of the insoluble contain:

Phosphoric acid,	1.20.
Silex,	75.
Oxide of iron,	2.50
Lime,	5.80
Charcoal,	15.50

Peat ashes abound in carbonate, sulphate and especially phosphate of lime. Free alkali may be always traced in peat ashes; but alkali exists in it rather as a silicate, as in leached ashes. Anthracite coal ashes contain carbonate of lime, alumina, and oxide of iron. It is good so far as these abound.

The above are calculated on the analyses of Bertheir, who has detected soda in the ashes of many plants. The elements are stated singly; because we have thus at one view, the amount of each, and it is the base chiefly which acts. The agricultural value of ashes may be determined by reference to these tables. In what state these elements may be combined in plants, we can only determine theoretically. Thus the phosphoric acid, by its affinities, would be united in the hard woods as above, with the lime and iron, forming in each 100 parts of the insoluble portion of ashes, phosphate of lime, 5.40; phosphate of iron, 1.86.

The composition of the insoluble part of ashes gives nearly the constituents of leached ashes. If the soapboiler's process was as perfect as that which the chemist employs, still his leached ashes would show more lime than the above tables, because he always employs a portion of lime to make his ley caustic. This is a variable portion; whatever it is, it adds so much to the value of the leached ashes. Besides the soapmaker always leaves a portion of alkali, which is combined with the silex. Exposure to air decomposes this, and then the alkali can be extracted by water. This is one great source of the active power of leached ashes.

A bushel of good ashes contains about 5 1-2 lbs. of real potash. In leaching ashes, generally about one peck of lime is added to each bushel of ashes, and as it loses no bulk during the operation, a cord of leached ashes contains about the following proportions, allowing the usual proportion to be leached out, or 4 1-2 lbs.

Phosphoric acid,	117 lbs.
Silex,	146 "
Oxide of iron,	17 "
" of manganese,	51 "
Magnesia,	119 "
Carbonate of lime, including that added in leaching,	3072 "
Potash combined with silica,	50 "

Spent ashes, therefore, belong to the class of carbonates.

STALL FEEDING.

Directions to Stall-feed Cattle—read before the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, June 1, 1842, by James Mease, M. D., Vice President.

1. The subjects on which it is intended to lay an extra proportion of fat, must be in good condition when put up—otherwise they will not pay for the cost, feed and care.

2. Give one handful of fine salt three times weekly to each beast.

3. The hay must be of the first cutting, (if clover) and well cured—that is, not left before cutting in the field, until the stems are deprived of all nutritious moisture, the leaves and blossoms turned black, and when cut, turned day after day in making, until they fall off from age, and exposure to the sun, and probably a rain or two. These consequences (the last excepted) are the invariable result of sowing timothy with clover seed; for the first grass does not attain its full growth until two weeks after the latter is fully ripe, and farmers almost always refuse to cut the crop until timothy is fit to mow. The union of orchard grass with clover, does not admit of the objections to which the first combination is liable, for both progress equal to maturity, and if cut when in full blossom, and not kept too long in the field, make a hay which cannot be exceeded. Hay should be given thrice daily, and no more put in the rack at a time, than the animals will eat before their next allowance, as they become fastidious by confinement, and will refuse their hay upon which they have often breathed, and which is also impregnated with the confined air of the stable. At night, enough must be given to last until the morning, and the remains of the former supply at all times taken away, to give place to a fresh one.

4. Water is to be given twice a day, and, if convenient, the animals may be walked to the spring, creek, or pump. The exercise will amuse them, promote their appetites, and aid of course the object in view.

5. After their hay is eaten, give from 10 to 16 quarts of Indian corn and oats ground together, to each head three times daily during ten days; then half a peck of boiled mashed potatoes, with a handful of corn meal sprinkled over them. The water in which the potatoes have been boiled must be thrown away, as I know it to be hurtful to animals. In a week, a change may be made of chopped pumpkins, or sliced swedish turnips, or sugar beet, for the potatoes. The new food will invariably encourage appetite, unless in the event of any aversion to some one article, for which no cause can be assigned. Indian corn meal, with or without oats, must be the never-failing accompaniment of any other food.

6. Great care must be taken to watch the appetites of the animal, so as never to cloy it; otherwise time will be lost. He must on no account be over-fed—and to avoid this, during the occurrence of an increase of temperature in the air (or "a warm spell") which takes place almost every winter, the usual allowance must be diminished. The farmer should take the alarm the hour that he sees the animal leave any of his usual allowance in the trough or rack, clean out both, and by a daily walk, extra carding, and, if necessary, a dose of Glauber salts, try to restore the appetite.

7. The food, other than hay, should be given in a box and in the trough alternately, which should be daily washed or dry scrubbed, and scraped, to prevent the remains of a former mess from turning sour, which will infallibly disgust the ox. This was the uniform practice of that first rate farmer, Joseph Cooper, of New Jersey, who urged its adoption upon the writer, as one with the importance of which his own ample experience had fully impressed him.

8. Flax-seed jelly, with corn meal, is of service occasionally to soften and loosen the skin, and produce that "kindly feel" in it which the great English improver, Bakewell, ranked as an essential point in the choice and feeding of cattle; meaning thereby a "mellow, soft feel, yet firm to the touch, and which is equally distant from the hard dry skin

peculiar to some cattle, as it is from the loose and flabby feel of others."

9. Carding the animal thrice daily with appropriate cards, is an all-essential part of the process. The operation is highly grateful to the animals, and its effects eminently salutary. It promotes the action of the small vessels on the surface, and the muscular fibres, which sympathize and act indirectly upon the stomach. Medical men are well acquainted with the intimate connexion subsisting between the state of the human corporeal surface, and the stomach and viscera connected with digestion, and the same connexion is observed in the ox when feeding.

10. Regularity in the hours of feeding and watering, is essential.

11. Cut straw, free from mould or smell, may be given once a day, by way of a change, slightly sprinkled with corn meal and salt. It will be eaten freely. The stable should be well ventilated, if possible—for the more pure the air, the more keenly will the animals eat. The utmost attention must also be paid to cleanliness. The animals must not be permitted, when leaving the stall to drink, to walk through a yard covered with wet manure, and to return to their stall with the clefts of their feet filled therewith—for, owing to the acrimony of the liquid, a sore therein will be the almost certain effect, with a consequent loss of appetite. This cleft must be occasionally examined in both oxen and sheep, and if found sore, should be washed with soap and water, when the application of a dossil of tow, dipped in spirits of turpentine, morning and evening, for three or four days, will remove it.

12. Clean bedding is a point obvious to all.—*Philadelphia Sat. Cour.*

CHARACTERISTICS OF MILK.

Milk is a well known, white, opaque fluid, secreted in peculiar vessels by females of the mammiferous class, which, of course, includes those of the human species, of quadrupeds, and of cetaceous animals. Its principles, so far as they have been chemically examined, are essentially alike by whatever animal produced; yet these are so modified by the different proportions in which they exist, as to constitute a peculiarity that distinguishes the milk of one animal from that of every other. The milk of animals was, doubtless, designed by the Author of nature for the nourishment of their offspring. But man has extensively appropriated this admirably adapted nutriment to his own use; and in this, as in numberless other instances, has asserted that superiority over the brute creation which was originally conferred by the Sovereign Creator, who in giving him dominion over every living thing that moveth upon the earth, appointed him lord of this lower world.

The milk of the cow (*lac vicinum,*) forms a very essential part of human sustenance, and for several reasons is deserving of special consideration. It is the best and most palatable aliment for the young; it is suited to nearly every variety of temperament; and is adapted to the nourishment of the body in every age and condition. In order to arrive at a competent knowledge of its nature and properties, we propose to confine our observations and analysis chiefly to the milk of the cow. Previous, however, to a chemical investigation, there are a few particulars appreciable to the senses, which deserve a passing notice.

.1 *Color.*—Milk fresh drawn from the cow, should be of a beautiful white color, slightly tinged with yellow. It has the deepest color at the commencement of the period of lactation; but this is often varied by the seasons and by food without materially affecting the nutrient and healthy properties of the milk. The juicy herbage of the pastures in the spring brightens the yellow tint, which gradually fades as the fields become arid and the season advances; and the dry fodder of winter produces milk comparatively white. The *ranunculus*, or butter-cup, with which some pastures abound, imparts not only an unusually deep color to the milk, but also an acrid property, which is extremely pernicious. The milk of cows which are fed on distillery slops, brewers' grains, the refuse of kitchens, and similar food, owing to a deficiency of the oily and albuminous principles, is generally of a pale bluish color, and comparatively innutritious; as is also the milk of cows confined in pens, although supplied with proper herbaceous aliment. The white, opaque appearance of milk, is obviously owing to the curd or albumen which it contains; for when this substance is perfectly separated from the milk, the serous residuum becomes colorless and transparent as water.

II. *Smell.*—Although taste and smell are different senses, and employ different organs, they are so closely connected, that the impression made on the one, in many instances produces a corresponding excitement in the other. It is thus with milk, which may be said to smell as it tastes. Good milk has a peculiar animalized aroma, which is very pleasant, especially when new. By exposure to the atmosphere, it loses this odor in some degree, but the application of heat will restore it. The grateful and savory smell of milk is often destroyed by certain kinds of food. In the case of cows confined in stables, and fed with the refuse of the distilleries, the milk is generally rank and nauseating.

III. *Taste.*—The taste of milk is peculiar, slightly saccharine, and of a rich agreeable flavor. But this, of course, is affected by particular descriptions of food. Rank grass, noxious weeds, acid apples, sorrel, a plant of the genus *rumex*, which is found in many pastures, turnips, cabbage, wild-garlic, distillery slush, fetid water, &c., will, when taken by the cows, impart their peculiar flavor to the milk; as will also impure utensils and the atmosphere of filthy rooms or pens where it is milked and allowed to stand. Milk of inferior quality is insipid, often somewhat acid or bitter, and unpleasant to the palate. In autumn the decayed leaves, particularly of the ash tree, communicate a rank and bitter taste to milk. The poisonous quality of the leaves of the yew tree, should prevent its growth in or even near to such grounds as are used for pastures.

IV. Good milk is slightly *alkaline*. This is too important a characteristic to pass unnoticed, and we are not aware that it has been observed by any previous writer. This quality is not perceptible to the taste, but is readily discovered by litimus paper, or any other vegetable blue which will detect acesency. If the color of the paper remains unchanged when dipped into fresh drawn milk, it has alkaline properties; but if the paper becomes red, the milk has a predominance of acidity. We would not hastily deduce conclusions from, perhaps, too limited a range of experiments. But personal observations have induced the conviction that the alkaline property, in some degree, is essential to healthy milk, and is the unfailing characteristic of the fluid secreted by animals that are in healthy condition and properly kept. On the contrary, where the natural conditions of the cattle have been reversed, the milk, as shown by appropriate tests, was as uniformly acid. We have not known an exception to this rule. It would appear, therefore, that these results could scarcely become general, except on the supposition that they happen in accordance with established laws.

The characteristics of good milk are thus summarily described in a valuable English work recently published: Good milk should be quite liquid and homogeneous; not viscid; and should contain only spherical transparet globules, voluble in alkalies and ether; should not become thick when mixed with ammonia; and should form a flocculent precipitate with acetic acid, but not be coagulated with heat.—*Hartley's Essay on Milk.*

COMPOST.

But there is still another form in which this artificial manure (peat) may be prepared—that is by the addition of ammonia, the real Simon Pure of cow dung. Take

3 cords of peat,
61 lbs. sal ammoniac,
1-4 cask, or about 61 lbs. lime.

Slack the lime, dissolve the sal ammoniac, and wet the peat well with the solution through every part. Then shovel over, mixing in the lime accurately. We have here then, 3 cords of manure, at a price as follows:

3 cords peat,	$4 50
61 lbs. sal ammoniac, at 1*s.*,	10 17
61 lbs. lime,	0 27
	3)$14 94($4 98

It will be observed that three cords are used in these calculations, because the quantity of salts used are equivalent to the ammonia in a cord of dung, and that is supposed to be composted with 2 cords of loam, or meadow mud. Whether the estimates are correct, each one will determine by the value he may place on his peat and manure, and can apply his own estimates. When a cord of stable or barn-yard manure is usually estimated worth $4, the price of a cord of clear pure cow dung will not be thought high at $17. In fact, it probably, when mixed with the usual proportion of litter, straw, stalks, and the usual loss by waste of its value, would become worth only about $5. But these questions do not affect the principle, that from alkali and peat as cheap a manure may be prepared, and as good, as from stable dung; for let that be called $5 00—then adding two cords of peat, 3 00

3)$8 00

$2 66 per cord.

—*Dr. Dana's Muck Manual.*

Bells for Sheep.—We happened to be in a hardware store the other day, when a farmer came in and inquired for *sheep bells*. He stated that the only way in which he could protect his lambs against the depredations of the foxes, was by putting bells on a few of the sheep in his flock; when this was done, the lambs were safe. We thought the hint worth remembering, and have put it down here for the benefit of our readers.—*Far. Gaz.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21, 1842.

HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

The exhibition of Fruits, Flowers and Vegetables at the rooms of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society last week, was gladdening to the lovers of good fruit and fine flowers. The rooms were tastefully decorated with evergreens and the rich autumnal flowers, and the tables were completely covered with the fruits of the season. Our friends in the country can have but faint conceptions of the variety and richness of pears, peaches and apples to be found in the vicinity of this city, unless they occasionally call at these rooms.

The show of fruits this season was better, in point of variety, than in past years. The season having been wet and cold, the fruits were less ripe than last year: the late pears were not in the best condition for exhibition. But the fruits and flowers generally were fine specimens of their kind, and the show was superb The weather was very unfavorable, and consequently the visitors were less numerous than usual. We regret this, because a full attendance is gratifying and encouraging to the contributors, and also because the individuals who see the rooms enjoy a rich treat. We hope soon to get the reports of the committees, and as we shall publish those in full, we shall not preoccupy the ground by our individual opinion of the beauties and richness of contributions from the several cultivators.

FESTIVAL OF THE MASS. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

On Friday evening, after the Society's exhibition was over, a charming festival was held at Concert Hall. The tables were beautifully ornamented with flowers and richly loaded with the finest fruits of the season. They were surrounded also by beauties fairer than Flora ever gave to earth. The presence of the ladies gave a purer and happier spirit to the meeting than was ever generated by the gifts of Bacchus All seemed delighted with the exchange, and all speak in raptures of the enjoyments of the evening. The speeches from the President of the Society, from the Mayor of the city, from invited guests, and others, were appropriate and happy. Next week we hope to give them to our readers in better form than this week will allow us to put them into.

BUTTER.

What shall we write about?—(said we, in the way of chat, to a friend who knows nothing about farming)—What shall we write about this week? "Write," said he, "to the farmers' wives, and tell them how to make good butter." No wonder, thought we, that you are so ready to give that answer; for we have not had the good fortune to find any good butter at any one of the many tables in and around the city at which we have sat for the last four or five weeks. Were we to put our question into the mouth of the city crier, and direct him to ask in the streets—What shall the editor of the Farmer write about?—we should expect an unanimous and instant response from side-walks, from behind counters and desks, from parlor and from kitchen—*Butter! Butter! Butter!* Write about *good butter*.—Yes, ye farmers' wives and daughters, if ye knew the half that is said, or the fourth that is thought of the buttered salt, and plastered up buttermilk, that is sold and used for butter, you would blush, and wear as many colors on your cheeks as the knife discloses when it severs your pound lump.

Keep your pails and pans and churns, and all your dishes clean and sweet. Keep your cellars cool and well ventilated;—use none but the *best* salt—rock salt—and not too much of that; and work out *all* the butter-milk. And when you have done all this, not more than half of you will make decent butter. On some farms the cows, too many of them, will furnish white and poor cream: the mow every where is far from sweet: some of the cellars are unavoidably warm and poor: and some of *you* have hands too warm to put to the butter

So much we will whisper in the ears of the citizens in your defence—and will say to them also, that the weather for the last two months has been of the worst for your business. But when we have said all this, we shall not be able to satisfy either the good people of Boston or ourself, that you are all entirely blameless in this matter. If you do not reform—(the guilty only we are speaking to)—then we shall be under the dire necessity soon of uttering the fearful wish that you may yourselves be obliged to eat the stuff, when a week old, which you sell in the market for *butter*.

ARTICLES FOR EXHIBITION AT CATTLE SHOWS.

The Fairs of the many Agricultural Societies benefit the cause of husbandry by bringing together, where thousands can see them, the good productions of the stall, the field and the garden. No farmer can attend such an exhibition without seeing or hearing something that will be instructive or that will enkindle his zeal. Though one cannot lay his finger upon this animal or that; though he cannot name this farm or that, and say that its peculiar excellencies are the effects of an Agricultural Society's exhibitions or premiums; yet it is not probable that the effects can be other than great and good. Hundreds and thousands are annually stimulated by them to make efforts to excel. Those who succeed, make known the result; others have tried—have learned something—and have become more interested in their pursuit, though they say nothing of their design to have been competitors for premium, had their animals or crops grown better. The stimulating leaven works more generally than is supposed by those whose opportunities for observation are limited. The influences of the shows are great and good.

But we have often thought that many men's opinions as to what kind of articles are most suitable for exhibition and most deserving of premiums, are not correct. If one has a *very large* calf, because of the *size* alone the calf will be entered for premium. If there grows in the garden a huge hybrid squash, *that* must be exhibited: a few overgrown sugar beets, too coarse to be good for any thing, are brought to the hall for show. There is no harm in exhibiting these monsters; but the articles most deserving of the Society's rewards are, such animals as are usually preferred for profit—being of fair size, good form, good eye, good skin, &c.; and such vegetables as are a fair sample of the whole growth upon a field that has been cultivated with care and economy. No valuable lesson can be learned from a squash or beet that happens to be *very large*, nobody knows *why* or *how*. The fairest and best articles of fair size, are more useful than the coarse though *very large* ones. In the case of animals and vegetables, premiums should not be awarded for *curiosities*, merely as such, but for *excellence* attained by perseverance in well-directed effort. Committees in awarding premiums and bestowing gratuities, are in danger of letting size influence their decisions more than they would if purchasing animals or vegetables for their own use. We have often thought that size was considered the greatest excellence; but very extraordinary size in animals and vegetables is so often connected with coarseness, and is so often a *mere accident*, that we are not ready to look upon it as very important, or as possessing any peculiar claims to reward. *The best*, not always *the largest*, deserve favor.

Where no oxen are, the crib is clean.—SOLOMON.

You may have the barn clean when you keep no cattle in it. The house may be clean when uninhabited. Every tool on a farm may not only have its place, but may be kept in its place if but little work is done. But the text implies that where work goes on briskly and successfully, there will be clutter and dirt. This is true; and if we could say a word teaching that *over nicety and order* are unfriendly to the dispatch of business—if we could say it without giving encouragement to slovenly and unorderly habits, we would speak.

More farmers are in fault for neglecting order and neatness, than are for excessive regard to these. Yet we now and then see a place where so much attention is given to appearances, to neatness and to order, as to be satisfied that labor cannot be prosecuted vigorously and profitably there. The crib is clean—but there being no oxen at it, it yields no income. The tools are in place, but this being because they are seldom taken out for use, they give but little profit. The yards, and fences, and avenues are neat, because the work of the fields is postponed till they are attended to. Neatness and order in their *excess*, may be pardoned in the affluent, but will not do for those who are to *earn a living* from the soil.

But do n't think we are advising you to neglect them: they both are proper and profitable to a considerable extent—to a greater extent than most farmers in the country practice them.

CATTLE SHOWS, FAIRS, &c.

New York State Agricultural Society, at Albany, Sept. 28 and 29.

American Institute, at New York, Oct. 12, 19 and 20.

The Rhode Island Agricultural Society have postponed their Cattle Show for the present year. The election of officers will take place at the Society's Hall, in Pawtuxet, on Wednesday, 28th inst., at 2 o'clock, P. M.

Berkshire Co. Society, at Pittsfield, Oct. 5 and 6.

Essex Co. Society, at South Andover, Sept. 28.

Hampshire Society, at Northampton, October 12 and 13.

Worcester Co. Society, at Worcester, October 12.

Plymouth Co. Society, at Bridgewater, October 12.

Middlesex Co. Society, at Concord, October 5.

Bristol Co. Society, at Taunton, October 13.

To be satisfied with the acquittal of the world, though accompanied with the secret condemnation of conscience, is the mark of a little mind; but it requires a soul of no common stamp, to be satisfied with his *own* acquittal, and to despise the condemnation of the world.—*Lacon.*

Some *reputed* saints that have been canonized, ought to have been cannonaded; and some *reputed* sinners that have been cannonaded, ought to have been canonized.—*Ibid.*

The earth, indeed, is doubly grateful—inasmuch as she not only repays forty fold to the cultivator, but reciprocally improves its improver, rewarding him with health, strength and vigor.—*Ibid.*

Avarice has ruined more men than prodigality, and the blindest thoughtlessness of expenditure has not destroyed so many fortunes, as the insatiable lust of accumulation.—*Ibid.*

THIRD GRAND DAHLIA SHOW

Of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

The third Annual Dahlia Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, will be held at the Societys' room, No. 23 Tremont Row, on Thursday and Friday the 22d and 23d of September next, when premiums to the amount of upwards of $200 will be awarded for the best specimens.

A circular, containing a schedule of the prizes and the rules and regulations which will be observed in the exhibition of flowers, will be ready for distribution, and may be had on application, at the Societys' room, on the last Saturday in August.

All cultivators who intend to exhibit, must signify their intention to do so, and in what class or classes, *on, or before Saturday*, the 17th of September, at which time the Flower Committee, will meet at the Societys' room at 10 1-2 o'clock in the morning to appoint judges to decide upon the respective merits of the flowers, and award the prizes. All cultivators who do not signify their intention to exhibit on or before the above day, will be excluded from premiums.

All flowers must be arranged in the stands by 10 o'clock in the morning, in order to allow sufficient time for the judges to examine the flowers. The exhibition will be open to the public at 1 o'clock, P. M.

Per order of the Committee. C. M. HOVEY,
Chairman.

MASS. HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

NOTICE.

☞An Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society will be held at the Rooms, No. 23 Tremont Row, on *Saturday*, the first of October next, at 11 A. M., for the choice of officers for the ensuing year, viz:—A President, four Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, Professor of Botany and Vegetable Physiology, Professor of Etomology, Professor of Horticultural Chemistry, an Executive Committee, and Standing Committees on Fruits, Flowers, Vegetables, Library, and Finance.

EBEN WIGHT,
Sept. 21 2w *Recording Secretary.*

THERMOMETRICAL

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, for the week ending Sept. 17.

Sept.	1842.	5 A.M.	12, M.	7, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	12	68	85	77	N.
Tuesday,	13	63	75	60	S. E.
Wednesday,	14	56	64	58	S. E.
Thursday,	15	54	60	51	N. E.
Friday,	16	58	67	60	N.
Saturday,	17	48	68	56	W.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Sept. 19, 1842.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

At Market 700 Beef Cattle, 875 Stores, 3200 Sheep and 1125 Swine.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.* We quote to correspond with last week, viz. a few extra $5 00. First quality, $4 50 a 4 75. Second quality, $3 75 a 4 25. Third quality $3 00 a 3 50.

Stores.—Two year old $7 a 12. Three year old, $14 a 20.

Sheep—A little quicker without much advance. We notice lots sold for 75 cts., 1,08, 1 25, 1 33, and $1 50. Wethers, $1,25, 1,62, and 1,75.

Swine.—Lots to peddle 2 1-2 for sows and 3 1-2 for Barrows. Old hogs, 3 cts. At retail from 3 1-2 to 5.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $2 50 to 3 00 per bushel. Red Top, 40 to 50 cents. Clover—Northern, 00 to 12c.—Southern, 0 a 10 c. Flax Seed, $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 30 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $4 50 per bushel.

GRAIN. Duty, Corn, Rye and Beans, free; Barley 20 per cent.; Oats 20 per cent.

The market, in view of expected arrivals, has barely sustained the late quotations.

Corn—Northern, old, bushel 61 to 62—Southern, round yellow, old, 60 a ——Southern flat yellow, new, 57 a 00—do. do. white do. 00 a 54—do New Orleans, 00 a 00—Barley — a — —Rye, Northern, 65 a 67 —do. Southern, 60 a 62 — Oats, Southern, 26 a 28—Northern do. 30 to 31—Beans, per bushel 75 a 1 25.—Shorts, per double bush. 22 a 25—Bran, 20 a 22.

FLOUR. The market acquired a little more firmness at the close, owing to a temporary scarcity, but as large supplies are now daily expected, no improvement in prices is looked for.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. $4 87 a 0 00 —do. wharf, $4 75 a 0 00 do. free of garlic, $0 00 a — —Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $4 75 a 4 87 —Fredericksburg, lowl'd 4 mos. $4 87 a 0 00—Alexandria, wharf mountain, —0 00 a — —Georgetown, $5 00 a 0 00—Richmond Canal, $4 75 a 0 00 —do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, South side $0 00 a 0 00 —do. Country $4 75 a 0 00—Genesee, common, cash, $4 87 a 0 00—do fancy brands $5 00 a 0 00 — Ohio via Canal, $4 62 a 4 75—do do New Orleans, cash $0 00 a 0 00. Rye, $0 00 a 0 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $2 75 a 3 00.

PROVISIONS. The transactions at private contract comprise 500 bbls. Mess Pork, and 200 Prime. Lard is in steady demand, and prices improving.

Beef—Mess 4 1-0 new bbl. $6 75 a 9 00—Navy—$0 00 a 0 00.—No. 1, 6 25 a 6 75—do Prime $4 00 a 5 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $11 00 a 00 00—do Clear $10 00 a 10 50 do. Mess, 7 50 a 8 00—do Prime $5 00 a 6 00—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $5 00 a 5 50 do. Cargo do. 0 a 0 00— —Clear do do $10 00 a 10 50— Butter, shipping, 6 a 8—do store, uninspected, 8 a 10—do dairy, 14 a 16,—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 7 a 7½ — do South and Western, 7 a 7 1-2, Hams, Boston, 6 a 7 — do Southern and Western, 4 a 6—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal, 3 a 4—do new milk, 5 a 6 1-2.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 8 cts. per pound, free. All whereof the value exceeds 8 cts. per pound, 32 per ct. ad. val. and 4 cts per pound.

Sales of pulled and fleece in moderate quantities have been made without any material advance from former prices.—Sales of 300 bales foreign coarse at improved prices.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 37 a 40 c.—American full blood do 35 a 37—Do 3-4 do 32 a 35—Do. 1-2 do 30 a 32—1-4 and common do 25 a 28 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 25—Do. unwashed, 10 a 13—Bengasi do 8 a 10—Saxony, clean,—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 12 a 16—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 33 a 35—No. 1 do. do. do. 28 a 30—No. 2 do do do 20 a 22—No. 3 do do do 12 a 15.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

There have been none of the new crop inspected, and prices are not yet established.

HAY, per ton, $16 to 18—Eastern Screwed $14 to 16

CHEESE—Shipping and 4 meal, 6 to 8c.—New 9 to 11.

EGGS. 12 a 16.

STRAWBERRY PLANTS.

Those who intend to form plantations of the Strawberry are informed that the month of August is the most suitable time. By planting out the sets, early fruit may be obtained the next season.

The subscribers offer the following fine varieties for sale at reduced prices, viz:—

Early Virginia. Very early and prolific, a well known and highly esteemed variety, and decidedly the most profitable variety in cultivation. Price $1 per hundred.

Keen's Seedling. One of the largest and highest flavored varieties known. Price $2 per hundred.

Methven Castle. A late hardy variety, good bearer; fruit of the largest size. Price $2 per hundred.

English Wood. Well known as a late and very productive variety, succeeding and continuing in bearing several weeks after other sorts have disappeared from the market. Price $1 per hundred.

Bishop's Orange. A new and desirable variety, a very great bearer, and excellent quality. Price $4 per hundred.

Hovey's Seedling. Fruit of the very largest size, of superior quality, perfectly hardy and a great bearer. The foliage of this splendid variety, is very beautiful, and is a great favorite with all who have cultivated it. One doll. per doz. Price $5 per hundred.

Royal Scarlet. Fruit long, oval shaped, free bearer and very hardy. Price $1 per hundred.

We have also a few dozen of the Downton, Myotts and Elton Strawberry plants; new varieties and very highly esteemed. Price 18 per doz.

J. BRECK & CO. 51 and 52 North Market st. Boston.
Aug. 10. 3w.

HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH Mr. HOWARD'S."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twentyseven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twentynine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside: this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough, sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.
April 20

MUCK MANUAL.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., The Muck Manual for Farmers. By Dr S. L. Dana; price $1.
Boston, April 13.

GRAIN CRADLES.

The difference in gathering a crop is so much in favor of cradling, that we must suppose that it will be the only mode adopted hereafter, and the grain cradle will become of as much use as an implement of husbandry, as the plow now is.

There has been a very great improvement in the manufacturing of this article, they are now made on the most improved plan; the scythe is well secured and finished in a superior manner and made of the best cast steel.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK, & CO. No. 51 & 52, North Market st., Boston. July 13

TYE UP CHAINS.

Just received by 500 Chains for tyeing up Cattle.

These chains, introduced by E. H. Derby, Esq. of Salem, and Col. Jacques, for the purpose of securing cattle to the stall, are found to be the safest and most convenient mode of fastening cows and oxen to the stanchion.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, &c.

The Proprietors of the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store No. 51 and 52 North Market street, would inform their customers and the public generally that they have on hand the most extensive assortment of Agricultural and Horticultural Tools to be found in the United States. Part of which are the following:

1000 Howard's Patent Cast Iron Ploughs	100 doz. Cast Steel Shovels.
300 Common do. do.	150 " Common do.
200 Cultivators.	100 " Spades.
100 Greene's Straw Cutters.	500 " Grass Scythes.
50 Willis' do. do.	300 " Patent Snaiths.
100 Common do. do.	200 " Common do.
100 Willis' Patent Corn Shellers.	500 " Hay Rakes.
50 Common do do.	200 " Garden do.
200 Willis' Seed Sowers.	200 " Manure Forks.
50 " Vegetable Cutters	300 " Hay do.
50 Common do. do.	500 Pair Trace Chains.
200 Hand Corn Mills.	100 " Truck do.
200 Grain Cradles.	100 Draft do.
100 Ox Yokes.	500 Tie up do.
1500 Doz. Scythe Stones.	50 doz. Halter do.
3000 " Austin's Rifles.	1000 yards Fence do.
	25 Grind Stones on rollers.

March 17.

FENCE CHAINS.

Just received from England, 10,000 feet Chains, suitable for Fences or other purposes. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st. April 21

LACTOMETERS—a simple instrument for testing the quality of milk. For sale by J BRECK & CO.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TE-TOTALLER'S AULD LANG SYNE.

Be days of drinking wine forgot,
Let water goblets shine;
And from your memory ever blot
The days of drinking wine.
Those days of drinking wine my friend;
Those days of drinking wine;
A temperance hour is worth a power
Of days of drinking wine!

We twa have quaffed to days long past
Bright juices of the vine;
But let us from our memories east
Those customs of "lang syne."
Bad customs of "lang syne;"
Our temperance age must blot the page
Of customs of "lang syne."

We twa can meet as friends should meet;
We twa together dine;
Our beverage quaff from fountains sweet,
And ne'er regret the wine.
At temperance's shrine, my friend, my friend,
We're pledged at her fair shrine;
And hold her cause above the laws
And customs of "lang syne."

[*Washingtonian Songster.*

DANIEL WEBSTER'S COUNTRY RESIDENCE.

MARSHFIELD, Aug. 26, 1842.

MR EDITOR—It is about thirty miles from Boston to this place, or rather to the seat and occasional residence of Daniel Webster.

Few persons, I am inclined to think, who have not been here of late, are aware of the extent of Mr Webster's agricultural operations, or of his taste and interest in their pursuit.

The house is situated about a mile from the stage road, and is not therefore generally seen by travellers. In passing off the main road that runs by the premises, in your approach to the house, you enter a level and somewhat circuitous carriage-passage, of two or three hundred yards in length, neatly lined on either side with shrubbery, and plainly indicating, from its neatness and order, what may be expected on a further examination.

The house is a large square one, surrounded by a piazza, and built about eighty years ago, by some one whose ideas were evidently far in advance of his neighbors, and who must have been regarded by them, unless he were a most benevolent and obliging man, as an aristocrat. It is two stories high, painted white, with a half story raised from the roof, surrounded by a range of low windows, and has two large handsome white chimneys, striped with black, coming out of the roof just in the right place to look well. Entirely through the house runs a spacious entry, ten feet in width, having in it a large and apparently superior barometer, with three or four pictures in gilded frames, representing hunting parties, *a l' Anglais*, on horseback, in full tilt after game. On either side of the entry are two convenient and commodious rooms, pleasantly facing the south, which are furnished by no means extravagantly, but neatly and in good taste. A few portraits decorate the walls, and a few books are seen lying around. Their whole appearance is just what would be expected in a country gentleman's residence.

On the west end of the house is the library, and a very pleasant room it is too—opening three ways upon fruit trees of various kinds, and at the present time laden with fruit. In the library is a small book-case, containing not a *law book*, as I could perceive—as Mr Webster does not trouble himself or allow any body else to trouble him with law matters while here—but about two hundred and fifty volumes of a miscellaneous character, a good sprinkling of which are on agriculture, horticulture, angling, and gunning. In one corner of the room is a superior rifle, which doubtless never fails, in the owner's hands, to bring down the game. A table with writing apparatus, a formidable walking stick, a splendid Indian costume, a curious hat-tree made of buck's horns, with a few other presents, rare and interesting, compose the furniture of the library.

In passing out of the house eastward, after dodging the limbs of a wide-spreading and magnificent elm, you enter a square garden of about an acre, fenced in and handsomely laid out, with a great variety of trees, shrubbery and flowers. From the bottom of the garden you ascend through a serpentine track, an eminence covered with foreign trees and shrubbery, crowded together so as to resemble a natural grove, made entirely under the direction of Mr Webster, within a few years. On the top of the hill is a circular summer house, made of trellis roof, about fifteen feet in diameter, and perhaps twenty in heiget, surmounted with a globe, and the whole or a good part of it, overrun with woodbine and honeysuckle, presenting in the distance, as well as in the near view, a pleasing appearance.

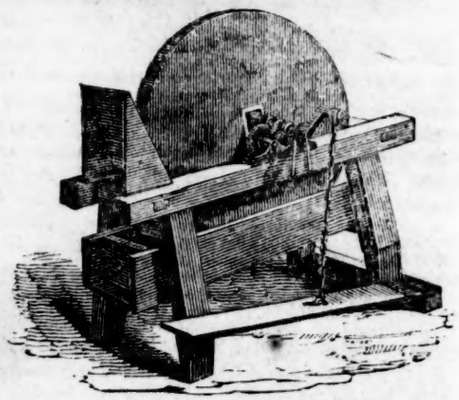
The farm owned and improved here by Mr Webster, consists of more than a thousand acres; but a part of it, however, is under cultivation, much of it being improved as pasture ground. That part which is improved, presents a fine appearance. There are a variety of young and thrifty orchards surrounding the house, which have been set out under the direction of Mr Webster, and which are now overloaded and bent to the ground by the weight of the fruit. Indeed, the whole establishment, house, out-houses, garden and farm, are in excellent keeping, and indicate in their owner taste and interest in agricultural and horticultural pursuits; and the astonishment is how he can find time amidst his numerous cares and public duties to give it a thought or pay it a visit.—*Bost. Merc. Jour.*

Swimming.—There is one scientific rule which if suitably impressed upon the mind, would save life in all ordinary cases; and for a want of a knowledge of this rule, very expert swimmers are sometimes drowned. The rule is this: Clasp your hands behind your back, make your nose the highest point of your body, (or look towards the horizon over your forehead,) and do not stir a muscle, and you will infallibly float.

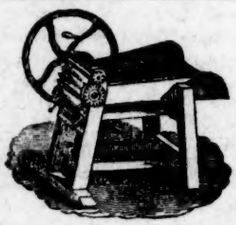
Thus every human being has a life-preserver against water, if only taught to use it. The brutes from their different conformation, and especially from their want of the great *rational* developement of the forehead, float by necessity, and swim by instinct. It is a pity and a paradox that men should lose their lives by a more liberal allowance of *brains!*—*Free Amer.*

It is computed by Dr. Caspar that there are on the earth 960,000,000 human beings and that the average deaths are 29,000,000 annually, 80,000 daily, nearly 3,700 hourly, and 75 every minute.

GRINDSTONES, ON FRICTION ROLLERS.



Grindstones of different sizes, hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, is found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use, and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co., No. 51 North Market street.



GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.
2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.
3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.
4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

POUDRETTE.

For sale 200 Barrels Poudrette, at $2 per barrel, by J. BRECK & CO, 51 and 52 North Market st., Boston.
May 18.

SAYLE'S GARDEN ENGINE.

This is a splendid article. It will throw a constant stream of water to the distance of 50 or 60 feet, with great force, and in case of fire would be a good substitute for a fire engine. The most perfect article for the purpose ever introduced. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 51 and 52 North Market street.

DRAFT AND TRACE CHAINS.

400 pair Trace Chains, suitable for Ploughing.
200 " Truck and leading Chains.
200 " Draft Chains. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within thirty days.

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TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS.